

# Rogue River Courier

VOL. XXVIII.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1912.

NO. 3.

## ENABLING ACT FOR \$400,000 BONDS

SPECIAL ELECTION WEDNESDAY SETTLES QUESTIONS.

## LIBRARY IS KNOCKED OUT

Proposed Amendment Regarding Sweeping and Sprinkling Defeated by Big Majority.

Voters of Grants Pass Wednesday, in the special city election to pass on three proposed amendments to the charter indorsed the enabling act regarding the proposal to issue \$400,000 in bonds for a water power, water and lighting system, and turned down the library proposition and the street sprinkling and sweeping amendment.

On the enabling act regarding the bond issue for power plant the vote was 253 for the proposition and 224 against, a total majority of 29 for the question.

In the sweeping and sprinkling proposal the vote for was 67, against 408, a majority of 341 against.

In the library matter the vote was 177 for and 297 against, a total of 120 majority against.

The vote by wards was as follows: First ward—Enabling act, 92 yes, 46 no; sprinkling, yes 21, no 116; library, yes 62, no 76.

Second ward—Enabling act, yes 67, no 62; sprinkling, yes 28, no 96; library, yes 70, no 58.

Third ward—Enabling act, yes 29, no 44; sprinkling, yes 5, no 68; library, yes 19, no 54.

Fourth ward—Enabling act, yes 65, no 72; sprinkling, yes 13, no 128; library, yes 26, no 109.

Considerable surprise was expressed at the defeat of the library question. In this matter it was proposed that the city levy a tax not exceeding five-tenths of a mill for maintenance, and a library commission be created. It was expected that Andrew Carnegie would at no distant date donate funds to build a library structure.

The defeat of the street sweeping and street sprinkling question was a foregone conclusion, even the mayor withdrawing support from the measure.

The majority of 29 for the enabling act in connection with the proposed water power bonds is satisfying to the sponsors for that measure. Eventually, if the measure goes through to its ultimate conclusion, it will mean that the people of the city have corralled the great power in Rogue river and barred for all time any private corporation from seizing this valuable asset.

## VANDALS AT WORK.

Vandals in the form of male youngsters last night pillaged and stripped a number of flower beds in the city of many blooms. Several persons were losers to a severe extent, two among other homes visited being that of George S. Calhoun and C. H. Demaray.

Mrs. Demaray is much grieved as a result of her loss.

The police officers have been notified of this vicious practice among some of the youths of the town, and if any of them are caught they will feel the grip of the law, as they can be prosecuted for malicious mischief.

## MINE STRIKERS CONFER.

NEW YORK, May 2.—Consideration of the report of the sub-committee on a proposed compromise to settle the difficulties between the miners and mine operators of the anthracite coal fields will occupy the attention of the joint wage scale conference of the miners and operators here. The miners met today at the hotel Earlington. It is reported that some insist on greater concessions than are included in the terms of the present compromise.

## SOCIALISTS OF JOSEPHINE NAME COUNTY TICKET

Socialists of Josephine county met in county convention yesterday afternoon in W. O. W. hall in this city and named a full county ticket, except for those county offices which are filled by holdovers. The convention was called by State Committeeman C. W. Hutton of Grants Pass. The convention organized with C. W. Hutton as permanent chairman and W. M. Haury secretary.

The convention went on record as supporting the state platform of the party.

The proposed law empowering the creation of high school courses in rural districts was indorsed and support guaranteed that measure.

A motion was carried that the convention go on record as favoring the naming of district road supervisors by a direct vote of the people.

The following were nominated for county offices:

State senator, C. W. Hutton, Grants Pass; representative, Wm. M. Richard, Merlin; sheriff, B. F. Kenyon, Grants Pass; county clerk, John Summers, Grants Pass; county commissioner, Wallace O. Kohler, Kerby; county assessor, W. A. Germond, Kerby; county treasurer, R. S. Morgan, Grants Pass; county school superintendent, Lillian V. Haury, Grants Pass; county coroner, E. Tuttle, Grants Pass; county surveyor, W. R. Whipple, Grants Pass; justice of peace, O. S. Goodnow, Grants Pass; constable, W. H. Ross, Grants Pass; justice of peace, Frank Johnson, Williams precinct; constable, Frank Bryant, Williams precinct; justice of peace, P. Pirce, Three Pines precinct.

C. W. Hutton, nominated for state senator, was urged by the state convention of the socialist party recently in session at Portland, to accept the nomination on the socialist ticket for United States senator. He refused the honor of the nomination. He was then sought to take the nomination for secretary of state. This he also refused. He gave as his reason for these two refusals that he had been requested to hold himself for a nomination within the gift of the party in Josephine county.

## SINGLE TAXERS TO SUBMIT AMENDMENT

OREGON CITY, May 1.—That for the first time in the history of Oregon, public service corporations, big land speculators and big business interests generally will pay into the public treasury a small part of what their special holdings are worth, if the voters of the state approve at the November election an amendment to the constitution providing for a graduated special specific tax on the owners of land and public service corporation franchises. That is the assertion of W. S. U'Ren of Oregon City, father of the "People's Power" movement, made today in a statement to the United Press. The single taxers of Oregon will submit the proposed amendment by initiative petition. U'Ren is one of those who are making a hard fight in behalf of the measure.

"This measure exempts personal property and land improvements from taxes," said U'Ren today. "But the report is reserved to the people of every county to provide by local law for taxing such improvements and personal property and to order a special election at any time on such a bill. All land values and franchises are to pay the regular general and special tax levies of the taxing districts in which the same is situated. In addition, every public service corporation and every owner of land and other national resources assessed at more than \$10,000 and not above \$20,000 in the country, shall pay a specific tax of \$2.50 on each \$1,000; the rate is graduated upward in steps of \$10,000 so that for all above \$100,000 of such assessed value the owner shall pay \$30 on each \$1,000 annually.

"This tax against owners will touch the ground lord who has leased his property with a covenant that the tenant shall pay all taxes and assessments against the property. This specific tax is assessed against the person and not against the property."

## KANSAS CITY MEN INVEST NEAR CITY

BUY 431 ACRES FROM ROGUE RIVER ORCHARD CO.

## PURCHASE PRICE \$43,100

Organize Corporation and Will Cut Holding Into Small Tracts for Fruit Farms.

Just brought to a close is a realty deal wherein a syndicate of Kansas City men purchased 430 8-10 acres of land in Rogue River Orchard company's tract five miles north of the city. The tract purchased by the Kansas City syndicate composes the northeast corner of the orchards company's tract, and faces the Roseberg road.

The purchase price is given at \$100 an acre, a total of practically \$43,100.

The purchasing syndicate has incorporated under Oregon laws the "Sunset Country Club Orchard company," capitalized at \$50,000. The directors are George M. Douglas, C. H. Washburn, F. M. Wilcox, G. M. Husser, H. Ellison, all of Kansas City, and S. D. Williams of Merlin and W. B. Sherman of Grants Pass, the two latter being owners in the Rogue River Orchard company.

It is the intention of the Sunset company to bring the 430-acre tract to a high state of cultivation, set to apples and pears, with peach fillers. Later the tract will be subdivided in 5 and 12 acre blocks, ten of which will be taken by individual members of the company and the remainder sold to outside people.

A headquarters building will be constructed next fall, in the meantime the present building sufficing for this purpose. One-fifth of the tract is now in cultivation.

Poultry along utility lines will also be a feature.

The improvements in the building line which the purchasers of this land will make will be of handsome design, and in conformity with modern needs. It will be an estate of much value when the plans under way are completed in detail.

Attorney C. H. Washburn of Kansas City, who acted for himself and the other Kansas City men, stated Saturday that he had traveled over the northwest, visiting all of the noted fruit regions, and that he is better suited by the Grants Pass region than any district he visited. He will not return to Kansas City, but will make his home here, his family to come here as soon as the schools are dismissed for the summer vacation.

The Rogue River Orchard company has remaining about 2,110 acres of its original 3,040 acres. Before selling the 430 acres to the Kansas City men, it had sold about 500 acres in small tracts. The company is composed of W. B. Sherman, of Grants Pass; S. D. Williams, of Merlin; F. F. Williams, of Portland, and W. T. Reed and E. E. Reed of Kansas City.

The property. A man owning \$500,000 worth of lots, leased on the above conditions, will pay annually from ground rents \$13,150 of this tax. This, with the public service corporation franchises all paying at the same rate, will greatly reduce the state taxation.

"At the same time, the single taxers will submit local county bills to exempt personal property and improvements on land in Multnomah county, Clackamas and Coos counties. These bills are submitted under the provisions of the county home rule tax and exemption amendment adopted by the people of Oregon in 1910.

"The big business and public service corporation interests and big land speculators are greatly excited over this measure. The submission of these measures directly to the people is embarrassing because it is impossible to buy up a majority of the voters or even to fool them very easily."

## MAY BUILD STEEL BRIDGE AT MURPHY

The county court is informally considering the question of a new steel bridge to go over the Applegate river at Murphy. The present structure is of wood, and was built 21 years ago. It is needing repairs, and the question is whether it shall be patched or a new structure supplant it.

Traffic over this bridge is heavy and a steel bridge is needed, believes the court. Cost of a steel structure at this point will be not less than \$10,000, as the stretch over the stream is a long one.

A representative of a bridge building company is here conferring with the court, and the matter is being discussed. Decision on the question will probably be made at an early day, with chances favoring the purchase of a steel bridge.

## MASSACHUSETTS GIVES TAFT BIG MAJORITY

BOSTON, May 1.—President Taft gets 26 Massachusetts delegates to the republican national convention in Chicago and Former President Theodore Roosevelt 10.

This was the net result today of the fiercest political fight New England has ever seen when complete returns from all but three small towns in the state were tabulated.

On the figures themselves Taft and Roosevelt split even. Each had eighteen delegates. Roosevelt got 10 straight-cut delegates, and his list of delegates at large, eight in all, defeated those pledged for Taft. This left the count even, each having eighteen. This afternoon, however, Roosevelt issued a statement that as President Taft had won in the preference primary, he (Roosevelt) would not insist that the eight delegates at large cast their votes for him in the Chicago convention. Whether or not the delegates at large will fall in with the suggestion that they shall support Taft, is as yet uncertain.

Following is the vote: Taft, 87, 117; Roosevelt, 83, 114; LaFollette, 2, 063; Clark, 33, 491; Wilson, 14, 470.

The results in the city of Boston alone were: Taft, 11,281; Roosevelt, 10,651; LaFollette, 249; Clark, 14,300; Wilson, 5,789.

## ROGUE RIVER RISES CLOSE TO DANGER LINE

(From Wednesday's Daily).

Rogue river is booming as the result of the heavy downpour of rain for several days.

The stream has been rising and falling for some days, gaining a little each day, with heavy driftwood passing today; however, from 8 o'clock to 2 o'clock today the waters had risen three feet, and are spreading out in a menacing way in the Galice and Hellgate region.

As a result of the flood, the United States mail failed today to get across the river to Galice, this being the first time in 20 years such has occurred as late as April, and never before in May. W. A. Mandle, who has carried the mail for 20 years from Merlin to Galice, made this report today.

Mr. Mandle said the river was three feet above the safety mark for the ferry boat to cross, and that he was satisfied that the water would be six feet above the safe point by nightfall.

## "GOOD ROADS" PARADE

PORTLAND, May 1.—Headed by Governor West, Mayor Rushlight and other city officials, a host of good roads enthusiasts today paraded through Portland's streets, celebrating "Good Roads" Day.

Today marks the opening of a two weeks' campaign to boost the initiation of six good roads bills now being circulated.

Good roads enthusiasts are confident that in two weeks enough signatures will be obtained to make it possible to initiate the bills.

The bills provide for extensive improvements on roads throughout the state.

## CITY GETS \$80,595 FOR \$80,000 BONDS

ACCURED INTEREST ALSO INCLUDED IN BIDS.

## CITY HALL CONTRACT LET

Goes to A. J. Green of Grants Pass for Sum of \$19,450—String to It.

When the city council last night had listened to the reading of the minutes, Councilman Clark moved that the regular order of business be dispensed with and that the council proceed to opening bids for the \$80,000 refunding bond issue, and then to follow immediately thereafter to open bids for the construction of a city hall. This motion prevailed, and Auditor Johnson opened and read six bids for the bonds, with three representatives of three of the six firms sitting anxiously a few feet away. The bids resulted as follows:

Merchants Trust and Savings company of Portland bid \$78,851 and accrued interest. This was the only bid submitted offering a sum less than par.

S. A. Kean & Co., bankers of Chicago offered \$80,648.

Woodin, McNair and Moore, Chicago, bid \$80,408.

Henry Pratt & Co. of Tacoma offered par and a premium of \$625.

Halsey & Co. of San Francisco bid par, accrued interest and premium of \$153.

First National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio, offered par, accrued interest and a premium of \$595.50.

A concern signing itself "Municipal Bond and Stock Exchange of Chicago" sent in a letter offering \$80,880. This concern did not indorse a certified check to make good its bids, which was the highest figure offered. "They haven't got \$80,000," remarked one official of the city.

The bids varied in their demands as to places of payment, Grants Pass, Portland, Chicago and New York, and in other minor details which would affect the net cash to the city as a result of exchange charges, etc. The question was which was the best bid under these circumstances. The discussion ended by a decision to send for City Treasurer George P. Jester, who as a banker, could advise the council. When Mr. Jester arrived the council took a recess of five minutes and the finance committee and Mr. Jester took the bundle of letters into a private session. When they returned Everett, as a member of the finance committee read its report, which was to the effect that the committee recommended that the bid of par, accrued interest and a premium of \$595.50 offered by the First National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio, be accepted. The recommendation, when put to a vote, was adopted without any member dissenting. H. A. Newpher, representative of the Cleveland bank, walked up to the table and thanked the council for its acceptance of his bid, and stated that he would expedite matters all he possibly could so that the deal could be finished quickly.

City Hall Contract Awarded. Immediately after the bond matter was closed the bids to construct a city hall and fire station were opened, with the following results:

D. A. Fitzgerald of Grants Pass, \$20,593, to be paid in cash.

Day and McFarland, Grants Pass, \$21,225. "Payment to be made in funds current at par."

A. J. Green, Grants Pass, \$19,450, to be paid in cash as work progresses.

Smith Bros., Grants Pass, \$22,675. Nothing said about "cash."

Leonard Wiles Co., of Medford, \$22,861.40.

M. J. Clark, Grants Pass, son of City Councilman Clark, \$19,786.50.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

to be payable in United States gold coin.

Then the council faced a problem. City Attorney Colvig advised that the city, under the charter, could pay nothing in cash, that the city must pay every obligation by warrant, and that the warrant may or may not, at the time cashed be at par. A long discussion ensued over this matter, the city attorney "standing pat." He stated, however, that the council could create a special fund for the city hall contract, and draw the warrants on this fund. Herzinger asked the city attorney if a special bond election would be necessary to raise the money to pay for the contract as the old hall sold for \$10,000, and \$10,000 more was needed. Mr. Colvig replied that "You must raise your money the most feasible way." Herzinger remarked: "Suppose the people in a special election refuse to vote more bonds for the contract, then we would have to 'mortgage' the city hall."

After a long discussion McLean made the following motion: "That the bid of A. J. Green of Grants Pass for \$19,450 be accepted, construction not to begin until the city has settled the matter of the purchase of the railroad's lots and the Salvation Army realty at the site of the new city hall, and an ordinance drawn to create a special building fund." More discussion. Stricker finally suggested that McLean's motion be changed by making it to read "and necessary funds provided."

"That was my intent," said McLean. It was so changed. When McLean's motion to award the contract to Green, with the provision to it as above, the vote resulted:

Yes—Daniels, Herzinger, McLean, Stricker, Wolfersberger.

No—Caldwell, Clark, Everton.

The big question remains, where is the council to get the funds to pay the remaining \$10,000 and additional funds to equip the building? It was the consensus that a bond issue proposition for \$12,000 or \$15,000 would necessarily have to be submitted to the property owning voters, \$10,000 to go on the building, and the remainder for equipment.

"The people want vote another bond," said Clark.

"They will," said another, "as nobody with any pride wants half of a city hall. I have no hesitancy in saying that the bonds would be cheerfully voted."

And there the matter rested.

Other Business.

A petition was submitted from residents asking that a bridge walk be put in over Gilbert creek on I street. The street commissioner was instructed to make the improvement.

The purchasing committee recommended Carl Allen be appointed to the position of fireman made vacant by the resignation of Fireman Croissant, one of the chauffeurs at the fire station. Referred to fire committee.

Engineer Hobson submitted a report advising that the Fifth street sanitary sewer be allowed to remain for a year more, that it was in condition sufficiently sound to carry the sewage fairly satisfactorily for that period.

A list of bills was allowed, but a batch of bills calling for a payment of \$3.00 each for election judges was amended to read \$2.50 to comply with an ordinance recently passed making for such service \$2.50. When the bills were read and a discussion ensued, Caldwell moved that the remuneration be made \$2.50; the vote was put viva voce, and the chair could not distinguish the ayes from the noes, so he called for roll call. The vote to pay \$2.50 resulted:

Yes—Caldwell, Daniels, Herzinger, Stricker, Wolfersberger.

No—Everton, McLean.

Several bills originating in the engineers office payable to several men, were passed up to the council by the finance committee, without action on the part of the committee. McLean asked why the finance committee had done this. Everett replied that the committee considered expenses in the engineer's office excessive, that the office cost \$260 last month. Clark remarked that the engineer's office and the auditor's office, it